



NEWS RELEASE

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NEAR \$1 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Lincoln, Neb., April 12, 2005 — USDA Rural Development announces the availability of \$992,000 via the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG) program for Fiscal Year 2005 as published in the March 16, 2005 Federal Register. Additional funds of \$992,000 have been earmarked for the Native Americans with the same amount earmarked for Empowerment Zones, Enterprise Communities, and Rural Economic Area Partnerships. Applications will compete nationwide for the funding.

Primary objective of the RBOG program is to improve the economic conditions of rural areas. Assistance provided to rural areas under this program include technical assistance for business development and conducting economic development planning. Program is available to public bodies, non-profits, federally recognized Tribal groups and cooperatives.

Applications for the RBOG non-earmarked funds will not exceed \$50,000 and for multi-state projects \$150,000. There are no project dollar amount limitations for ear-marked funds.

Entities wishing to apply for assistance should contact the USDA Rural Development State Office in Lincoln, Neb. for an application package. Completed applications must be submitted to the Nebraska USDA Rural Development State Office by May 27, 2005. Applications will be tentatively scored by the State Office, with the two highest scoring project applications being considered for funding and submitted to National Office for final review and selection.

For additional information contact USDA Rural Development Attn. Business-Cooperative Programs- Deborah Drbal, Rm. 152 Federal Bldg 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508-3888, (402) 437-5558, (402) 437-5093 (TDY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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